

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough consideration provided the present application. Claims 1, 2, 4-14 and 16-26 are now present in the application. Claims 1, 4, 5, 14, 16 and 17 have been amended. Claims 3, 15 and 27-32 have been cancelled. Claims 1 and 14 are independent. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that dependent claims 3-5 and 15-17 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants greatly appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter by the Examiner.

By the present amendment, independent claims 1 and 14 have been amended to include the subject matter of dependent claims 3 and 15, respectively, as described hereinbelow.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 & 103

Claims 1, 2, 6, 11, 13, 14, 18, 19, 24 and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Iwasaki, U.S. Patent No. 6,034,712. Claims 7-10, 12, 20-23 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwasaki. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As mentioned, independent claims 1 and 14 have been amended to include the subject matter of dependent claims 3 and 15, respectively, which were indicated by the Examiner as including allowable subject matter. Accordingly, it is believed that claims 1 and 14 and their dependent claims are in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but merely to show the state of the prior art, no further comments are necessary with respect thereto.

It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Joe McKinney Muncy, Registration No. 32,334 at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicants respectfully petition for a one (1) month extension of time for filing a response in connection with the present application and the required fee of \$120.00 is attached herewith.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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